AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings.

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of forming an axle assembly comprising the steps of:

a) providing a cylindrical hollow member having an end portion;

b) forming the end portion to provide a first generally circular end in cross-section,

c) forming a section of the cylindrical hollow member into a polygonal cross-section section; and

d) welding a preformed kingpin boss to the generally circular end.

2. (WITHDRAWN) The method according to claim 1, further including the step of bending the hollow portion to a desired shape subsequent to step c).

3. (WITHDRAWN) The method according to claim 1, further including the step of:

e) inserting a formable bulkhead into a cavity of the hollow member prior to step b).

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

e) swaging the polygonal cross-section section into a generally frustroconical shape subsequent to said step c).

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (WITHDRAWN) The method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:

a1) inserting a bulkhead into a cavity of the hollow member prior to said step b); and

a2) simultaneously swaging the hollow member and bulkhead into a generally polygonal cross-section after said step a1) and prior said step b).

7- 19. (CANCELLED)

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step a) further comprises:

providing the cylindrical hollow member with a preformed multi-wall thickness section.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step c) further comprises:

forming the polygonal cross-section section into a substantially rectangular cross-section section.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step c) further comprises:

forming the polygonal cross-section section into a substantially rectangular cross-section having a height to width ratio of approximately 1.2.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step d) is performed subsequent to said step c).

24. (CANCELLED)